

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 OES-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01

L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PM-03 /062 W

----- 076533

R 271646Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9795

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: GOF DEMARCHE ON CONCORDE

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTRY SYC DE COURCEL CALLED ME IN MAY 23 TO DELIVER AIDE MEMOIRE RE EPA NPRM ON CONCORDE NOISE LEVEL AND GENERAL QUESTION OF PROBLEMS POSED BY EVENTUAL CONCORDE SERVICE TO US. HE INDICATED US SEEMED TO BE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST CONCORDE AND HENCE AGAINST FRANCE AND UK, AND THAT THIS WAS BOUND TO BE RESENTED IN BOTH COUNTRIES. I RECALLED TO HIM DOMESTIC SST CONTROVERSY IN US AND POINTED OUT THIS WAS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. I THANKED HIM FOR CONVEYING GOF VIEWS TO US, AND SAID WE SHARED GOF HOPE CONCORDE NOT BECOME POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. I WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY LATE AFTERNOON MAY 23 BY SECRETARY GENERAL DE COURCEL WHO EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAD WANTED TO SEE ME TO DISCUSS CONCORDE, BUT SINCE SAUVAGNARGUES WAS ABSENT FROM PARIS HE HAD ASKED DE COURCEL RAISE QUESTION WITH ME WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. DE COURCEL  
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THEREUPON HANDED ME LENGTHY AIDE MEMOIRE (DATED MAY 20)

THIS SUBJECT AND PROCEEDED OUTLINE ITS CONTENT.  
DE COURCEL'S REMARKS--AND AIDE MEMOIRE--FOCUSED ON  
TWO POINTS: (A) EPA'S NPRM ON SST NOISE LEVEL, AND  
(B) OPPOSITION TO CONCORDE SERVICE TO US ON GROUNDS  
OF NOISE AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

3. DE COURCEL SAID THAT EPA'S NPRM ON SST NOISE  
LEVEL WOULD ESTABLISH SAME LIMITATION AS FOR SUBSONIC  
AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, FOR LATTER THERE HAD BEEN LONG  
TRANSITION PERIOD. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR CONCORDE  
TODAY TO MEET NOISE LEVEL FIXED FOR SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT  
(I.E., FAR 36), AND TO DO SO WOULD REQUIRE FIVE YEARS  
EFFORT AND OUTLAY OF OVER A BILLION FRANCS. EFFECT  
OF NPRM WOULD BE TO FREEZE CONCORDE PROGRAM AT  
SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT. THEREFORE, GOF FELT THERE SHOULD  
BE DELAY IN APPLICABILITY OF ANY SPECIFIC NOISE  
LEVEL TO CONCORDE.

4. DE COURCEL SAID THERE HAD BEEN MUCH EXAGGERATION  
OVER "FUMES AND DUST" EMITTED BY CONCORDE ENGINES,  
WHICH IN FACT WERE LESS DIRTY THAN ENGINES OF 747 OR  
DC-8. EXHAUST FUMES OF CONCORDE WERE NO MORE NOXIOUS  
THAN THOSE OF SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT. MUCH "RUBBISH" HAD  
BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT SUPPOSEDLY DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON  
STRATOSPHERE OF SUPERSONIC FLIGHT, BUT THESE EFFECTS  
WERE ACTUALLY SO MINIMAL THAT THEY COULD NOT BE  
MEASURED SCIENTIFICALLY. MOREOVER, HE NOTED, SUPER-  
SONIC FLIGHT BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT SEEMED NOT TO HAVE  
HAD ANY APPRECIABLE EFFECT ON THE STRATOSPHERE.

5. IN SUM, SAID DE COURCEL, THE ONLY REAL DIFFICULTY  
SEEMED TO BE NOISE. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER IN FACT

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NOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 OES-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01

L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PM-03 /062 W

----- 076781

R 271646Z MAY 75

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THIS WAS A PROBLEM, SINCE ONLY A FEW FLIGHTS PER DAY BY CONCORDE WERE PLANNED TO THE US. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM OVER SERIOUSNESS OF OBJECTIONS BASED ON THE LOW FREQUENCY CONTENT OF CONCORDE NOISE PATTERN.

6. DE COURCEL CONCLUDED THAT US APPEARED TO BE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST CONCORDE AND THUS AGAINST FRANCE AND THE UK; THAT THE US ATTITUDE WOULD CERTAINLY BE SO INTERPRETED IN FRANCE AND THE UK; AND THAT IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES THE US ATTITUDE WOULD BE RESENTED. IT WAS FOR THESE REASONS, HE SAID, THAT GOF HAD ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO MAKING PRESENT "POLITICAL INTERVENTION" WITH US THIS SUBJECT.

7. IN RESPONSE I RECALLED THE PAST DEBATE IN THE US OVER OUR OWN SST PROGRAM. THE CONTROVERSY WHICH IT HAD ENGENDERED WAS STILL WITH US TODAY. IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT PLANNED INCEPTION OF CONCORDE SERVICE TO US WOULD REVIVE THAT CONTROVERSY AND BRING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBYISTS ONCE MORE TO THE FORE. I SAID THAT I WOULD, OF COURSE, PROMPTLY APPRISE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPT. OF HIS DEMARCHE. I THANKED DE COURCEL FOR DISCUSSING FRANKLY WITH US A SUBJECT TO WHICH I KNEW GOF ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE. I ASSURED HIM WE TOO WERE WELL AWARE CONCORDE COULD BECOME A SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND I HOPED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD DO THEIR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT THE SITUATION DID NOT COME TO THAT.

8. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND COMMENT FOLLOW SEPTELS.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, DEMARCHE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS13460  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750185-0042  
**From:** PARIS  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750517/aaaaaotb.tel  
**Line Count:** 165  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: GOF DEMARCHE ON CONCORDE  
**TAGS:** EAIR, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006